

(Washington, D.C.) - Congressman Wally Herger (R-CA) issued the following statement after President Obama's speech regarding a government-run health care program at the American Medical Association (AMA) conference today:

"I agree with the President that we need to make significant changes to our health care system but I believe his solution will replace the health coverage Americans currently have and depend on with a lower quality government-run plan.

"I have serious concerns about the effects this plan will have on health care in America. Many leading health care experts share my concerns because they understand that, realistically, competition between the government and private companies cannot exist. It is virtually impossible to guarantee fair competition because government can change the rules of the game at any time. Also, like working Americans, private companies can't subsidize themselves through deficit spending as the federal government finds a way to do.

"President Obama twice reiterated his campaign promise to allow people to keep their health care if they like it, but independent studies show that 120 million Americans would lose their current coverage and be forced into a government program. Big-government health care systems across the world are confronting out-of-control costs by blocking patients from getting the medical care they need. Instead of following this path, we must reform our health care system through market-based policies that will bring down costs and ensure that all Americans have access to affordable, high-quality care."

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